

Users Executive Committee meeting minutes for June 12, 2015

The meeting, chaired by Bill Louis, began at 8:15. Bill Louis, Bill Lee, Lee Roberts, Jesus Orduna, Fernanda Garcia, Thomas Strauss, Kurt Riesselmann, Linda Spentzouris, Fabio Happacher, Rob Fine, Mateus Carneiro, Vivian O'Dell and Kim Pearce attended the meeting. Nigel Lockyer and Tim Meyer were also present representing the Directorate. Sandra Biedron attended by phone.

Overview

The meeting began with the chair report by Bill Louis. He provided a recap of issues the UEC has been working on and gave the current status.

Report from the Directorate

There is conjecture in Washington that there may be a continuing resolution until January. The Senate and the House have proposed similar funding levels for HEP; however, the Senate is proposing \$10M more than was in the previous budget for LBNF, whereas the House is proposing an increase of \$2M. A new building ceremony at the Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF) is coming up soon, and both Nigel and Congressman Hultgren will be attending.

Tim Meyer reported that the new location of the Users Office has been chosen to be on the first floor of Wilson Hall in the corner where the vending area is currently located. A task force has been formed to look at badging issues. Problems regarding Fermilab I.D.s reported by the users will be addressed at the same time as the effort to insure that the definitions of a 'user' held by the DOE and by Fermilab are clear and consistent. The Directorate's Office would like to increase user email capacity, so an evaluation of the hardware is being done to see if it is possible. The horse barn is closing at the end of October 2015. The Indian Creek Riding Club has 9 employee members and also serves a few dozen other people from the Fermilab community. There are various reasons to close the horse barn, including liability issues and a significant drop in riding club membership in the past five years. However, this action is part of the larger picture. Lab services are being examined to evaluate their impact. Services that are in demand will be upgraded (for example bike paths) and those services not in demand will be phased out in order to efficiently use available funds. It is planned to manage Wilson Hall by having responsible landlords on each floor. Reconfiguration of offices is going slowly in part because of the intention to do small renovations of the office space when emptied. Additional space is being sought in the Linac building and training areas. Thomas pointed out that wireless use is an indicator of where users most densely congregate. Wireless is now used most heavily on the 10th and 12th floors.

Tim informed the committee that the Directorate has agreed to support 1 or 2 extra UEC meetings this summer, as well as bring a few people in from the other users organizations for an additional meeting to prepare for the DC trip. Extra secretarial support for the DC trip will also be provided.

Report from Washington

Leland Cogliani of Lewis-Burke Associates reported on the news from Washington. The House has passed the full Commerce, Justice and Science bill including the NSF component. In the Senate, the bill is through committee, but has not gone to the full floor. The Senate has similar priorities as the House, including cutting climate change research and research in the social sciences. Moving forward on the Appropriations Bills is becoming increasingly more difficult. The House has passed the 6 easiest of the 12 regular Appropriations Bills; the Transportation Bill passed on the floor by only 6 votes. Since the 6 most difficult bills to pass remain, the process will slow down. On the Senate side, the Democrats will vote against the defense bill, which has been traditionally the easiest bill to pass. So, the Appropriations bill is stalled unless there is a budget deal. Obama is willing to negotiate, as are Speaker of the House Boehner and Senate Majority Leader McConnell. However, nobody is making the first move. Senate Republicans have added 38 billion dollars for defense spending, but have not made a similar increase in the base budget. The Obama administration says that if there is an increase in defense spending, there should be a similar increase in non-defense spending.

Nothing specific to HEP or FNAL is under discussion right now. The Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill passed the full committee, but there has been no action on the full floor. However, this is not a problem as long as the committee passes the bill. There can be no amendments if the bill is not taken to the full floor, but it can still be used to negotiate a final bill with the House. The real test is the defense bill – if that cannot get off the floor, there is no hope for anything else. It is too early to say how the difference in the HEP allocation between the Senate and the House will be resolved. Both House and Senate marks are higher than they were last year, showing general support of P5 and allowing critical projects to move forward. Leland said to encourage Fermilab users to contact their Congressmen in late August or early September, to ask for support of the higher Senate numbers for HEP, and to remind them of the support of their constituency for the program. Sandra asked Leland to send us some bullet points on what we should say and to give us point-by-point guidance on how to ask for support. Leland was agreeable, and Sandra said she would distribute the information to the people who went to DC. She will also help generate an email to ask for help with this from the general user community.

Users Meeting Sub-Committee

Bill Lee reported on the User's Meeting. It was generally successful, but a few problems were noted. The accelerator physics Ph.D. recipients were not listed along with the others. The quality of the beer and wine could have been better. Nigel noted that it is important to have larger attendance than was achieved this year at the talks by people from our funding agencies. A strategy is needed to improve this next year. It was commented that attendance at the talks in general was low. It would be helpful if Spokespeople would remind their collaborations to attend talks, and also not schedule conflicting meetings. It was suggested that summer students should also be strongly encouraged to attend talks. A physical sign at the Fermilab gate announcing the Users Meeting would be a good addition. The final number of people registered for the meeting was in the range of 450-470, whereas last year 520 people registered. There were 270 people registered two days before close of registration this year, and 393 people before

close of registration last year. The Conference Office was a huge help in preparations for the Users Meeting. There was a good showing of young scientists at Festa Italiana.

Outreach Sub-Committee decision

The discussion and decision on dissolving the outreach sub-committee was undertaken. Arguments in favor of dissolving it included the unique and critical nature of UEC service for the DC trip. It was stated that UEC effort should be applied where it is most effective. The DC trip is not an activity duplicated elsewhere, whereas Fermilab has a flourishing outreach program. The UEC sub-committee does not have the funds or personnel to add significantly to that effort. On the other hand, an argument against dissolving it was that outreach is truly an important aspect of the healthy functioning of HEP/Accelerator activities. Dissolving the outreach committee could send the wrong message. A middle ground was proposed to have a specific Outreach Deputy for both the Government Relations sub-committee and the Users Meeting sub-committee. This would maintain the importance of outreach activities, yet apply UEC manpower where it could be most effective. A vote was taken on which of the following options to implement: (1) simply dissolve the Outreach sub-committee, (2) dissolve the Outreach sub-committee but appoint Outreach Deputies for the Government Relations sub-committee and the User's sub-committee, or (3) maintain the Outreach sub-committee.

A vote was taken with the following vote count: Option (1) 1 vote; Option (2) 8 votes; and Option (3) 0 votes. The Outreach sub-committee will be dissolved, but Outreach Deputies for other sub-committees will be appointed.

UEC Candidate Nomination and Elections

Kim Pearce is to get the nomination forms that are submitted from the user population for UEC candidates. She will give us the list of candidates that she has after the June 26 deadline. The UEC should propose other candidates to round out the ballot. An email will be sent out to remind people that UEC membership is open for nomination. It will include a link to the nomination form (which is now posted). An email about the balloting will go out after June 29 with voting instructions. By then, there should be a sufficiently large list of candidates. It was pointed out that there are mostly U.S.-based people on the list of suggested candidates, and that some international candidates are needed. Pictures and biographical sketches of the candidates are also needed. Some candidates from the discipline of accelerator science may also be needed. Last year, voting was open from August 17th to September 8th (about three weeks), but people generally feel that voting should open sooner after the nominations close. The plan is to have the voting earlier this year.

Government Relations Sub-Committee

Jesus and Sandra emphasized the potential usefulness of the planned extra UEC meetings in July and August for preparation of next year's DC trip.

Fermilab Student and Postdoc Association report

Rob Fine reported that the FSPA is debriefing on the New Perspectives activities and that they are working on a report intended to save people time on logistics next year. There were 137 people who registered for the meeting through Indico. They were just slightly

oversubscribed on talks and posters. The Career Panel activity was successful, each panelist took a half hour to describe his or her transition to industry, and the audience was very engaged. Attendees also talked with speakers at the social event after the panel was over. There was good feedback about the event both from the audience and the panelists. One person was not granted a requested poster presentation space due to lack of room. Next year there should be a little more space when the bathroom renovations are complete, although Thomas said it might be hard to get space for more than 40 posters. Some of the poster presenters thought that the judges did not show up, but that was because the judges only went to those posters that were finalists in the competition. The judges checked the posters during the day, and got together later to make a short list. They went to see presentations from the people whose posters were on the short list. This was iterated three times. Clarifying the poster judging procedure to participants might be desirable next year. There were also problems getting the poster people through the early dinner line, because many people were in line who were not supposed to be there early. Facilitating early dining for the poster people is another goal for next year. Perhaps a different color badge or marking on the badge would help identify those who need to be in the early dinner line. It was difficult to get judges; however, there were 6 judges from six different research areas. New Perspectives advertising was improved from last year, but it could still improve more. For example, a large sign that says 'Poster session in progress' at the entrance of Wilson Hall might be helpful.

The summer work on the 'Fermilab Guide to Life' will be completed in about 3 more weeks. FSPA will continue to investigate the information that the Pilot leasing company gives out, and will continue to investigate whether changes are needed on FSPA member terms or elections. They would also like to get an FNAL/ANL soccer match going next year.

The meeting was adjourned.